

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 /081 W
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R 311125Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1235
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 0792

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, AF
SUBJECT: CONVENING OF LOYA JIRGAH

REF: (A) KABUL 0260 (B) KABUL 0662

1. SUMMARY. PRESIDENT DAOUD OPENED THE LOYA JIRGAH (NATIONAL CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY) AT 1030 JANUARY 30 WITH FANFARE AND SOL-EMNITY. IN HIS OPENING ADDRESS HE CALLED FOR DISCIPLINE AND HARD WORK AS THE ROAD TO THE ULTIMATE OBJECTIVE OF FULL DEMOCRACY, AND MADE SIGNIFICANT FOREIGN POLICY STATEMENTS REGARDING IRAN AND PAKISTAN (SEPTTEL). KABUL PRESS HAD PUBLISHED JANUARY 29 THE NAMES OF 130 PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES WHO WILL JOIN "ELECTED" DELEGATES AT JIRGAH. END SUMMARY.

2. AMID FANFARE THE AFGHAN LOYA JIRGAH OPENED IN KABUL JANUARY 30. THE FINAL MEMBERSHIP ROLLS WERE COMPLETED JANUARY 29 WITH THE PUBLICATION OF THE NAMES OF 130 DELEGATES APPOINTED TO THE JIRGAH BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE.

3. FIFTEEN OF THE APPOINTED MEMBERS ARE MILITARY OFFICERS, WHO
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ARE EXPECTED TO FOLLOW THE LEAD OF CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL HAIDER-RASULI IN SUPPORTING DAOUD'S PROPOSALS AND POLICIES AT THE LOYA JIRGAH. (HAIDER-RASULI HIMSELF IS A DELEGATE AS A MEMBER OF THE "CENTRAL COMMITTEE".)

4. THE OTHER 115 APPOINTED MEMBERS WERE CHOSEN FROM AMONG "FARMERS" (25), "WORKERS" (24), THE "ENLIGHTENED," AND "YOUTH."

AS A GROUP, NO SIGNIFICANT PATTERN IN THIS SELECTION CAN BE DIS-
CERNED, AND FOR THE MOST PART WE BELIEVE THESE INDIVIDUALS ARE
POLITICAL NEWCOMERS. (ONE OF THOSE WHO IS SIGNIFICANT IS ENGINEER
MOHAMMAD KABIR, HEAD OF THE HIGH ECONOMIC COUNCIL. KABIR'S
ELECTION TO THE LOYA JIRGAH AS A REPRESENTATIVE FROM KABUL HAD
BEEN OVERTURNED BY PRESIDENT DAOUD AS "UNDEMOCRATIC," AND HE HAD
BEEN DROPPED AS A CANDIDATE IN THE SUBSEQUENT RE-ELECTION.
SEE KABUL 662.)

5. A CROWD OF ABOUT 3000 PEOPLE LINED THE STREET IN FRONT OF THE
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH--THE MEETING PLACE OF THE LOYA JIRGAH--
TO GREET THE DELEGATES AND PRESIDENT DAOUD AS THEY ARRIVED FOR
THE OPENING SESSION. THIS WAS, LIKE THE DEMONSTRATIONS ACCOMPANY-
ING THE LOYA JIRGAH "ELECTIONS", A CAREFULLY MANAGED AFFAIRS,
WITH "CHEERLEADERS," "ORGANIZERS," AND PLAIN-CLOTHES POLICE
STATIONED AT CLOSE INTERVALS TO COORDINATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
CROWD. DAOUD ARRIVED AT 1030 TO OPEN THE LOYA JIRGAH AND TO
DELIVER A KEYNOTE ADDRESS. THIS SESSION---INCLUDING DAOUD'S
SPEECH-- WAS BROADCAST LIVE BY KABUL RADIO, AND MOST OF KABUL'S
CHIEFS OF MISSION ATTENDED.

6. DAOUD WELCOMED JIRGAH MEMBERS AND CALLED THEIR ATTENTION TO
THE IMPORTANCE OF THE EVENT. HIS SPEECH DEALT WITH BOTH DOMESTIC
AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS. DAOUD CONDEMNED THE POLICIES AND ECONOMICS
OF THE FORMER REGIME, PRAISED THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE REPUBLIC,
AND CALLED ATTENTION TO THE PROBLEMS OF AND PROSPECTS FOR FUTURE
ADVANCES. HARKING BACK TO EARLIER SPEECHES EXTOLLING DISCIPLINE
AND HARD WORK, DAOUD MADE CLEAR THAT PRESENT CONDITIONS REQUIRE
COMPLETE UNITY OF THOUGHT AND ACTION, RELENTLESS AND UNTIRING
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WORK, AN ATMOSPHERE OF EQUALITY AND BROTHERHOOD AND A STRONG
SENSE OF NATIONAL DISCIPLINE. IT WILL BE THESE VIRUES, DAOUD IN-
DICATED, WHICH WILL LEAD ULTIMATELY TO FULL DEMOCRACY. IN A RATHER
LENGTHY STATEMENT DAOUD SUGGESTED THAT OPPOSITION TO HIS REGIME
CONTINUES TO EXIST, BUT EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT SUCH A "RE-
ACTIONARY, ANTI-PEOPLE AND REVOLUTIONARY MINORITY" WOULD BE
SUCCESSFULLY RESISTED AND OVERCOME. FOREIGN AFFAIRS POLICY
ASPECTS OF DAOUD'S ADDRESS WERE MORE SIGNIFICANT, AND ARE REPORTED
IN SEPTTEL.

7. AFTER DAOUD'S SPEECH, THE LOYA JIRGAH DEVOTED ITSELF LARGELY
TO ORGANIZATIONAL MATTERS DURING THE FIRST DAY, ELECTING FROM
AMONG SIX CANDIDATES INCLUDING ONE WOMAN, AZIZULLAH WASEFI
(MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE) AS PRESIDENT OF THE ASSEMBLY, TWO
SECRETARIES, AND ADOPTING RULES FOR PROCEDURE.
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